



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
Chairman Phil Roe, M.D.

H.R. 95: Veterans' Access to Child Care Act

Background:

The lack of child care services at many VA medical facilities is frequently cited as a barrier to care for veterans, particularly female servicemembers. In light of this, the [Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010](#) required VA to carry out a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of providing child care services for veterans receiving mental health services and other intensive health care services.

In a report during the 114th Congress, VA reported that it had provided free childcare to 10,000 children through the pilot program and that veterans were consistently “completely satisfied” with services received. Last year, Congress extended the pilot program through December 31, 2017, through [the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2016](#).

The Veterans' Access to Child Care Act would make VA's pilot program for child care a permanent program at VA for veterans who are receiving regular mental health services and other intensive health care services from VA and serve as the primary caretaker of a child.

The Message:

- We must remove barriers to care for veteran patients.
- Parents who serve as the primary care taker of a child shouldn't have to sacrifice their own health.
- This bill would provide access to child care to veterans receiving mental health services and other intensive health care services at VA facilities.